

***Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish***  
***Office of Religious Education***

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Dear Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Families,

Your family registration form for the 2022-2023 Religious Education program is enclosed. Children who attend a Catholic school need only register in grades 2, 9 and 10.

We offer both classes led by a volunteer catechist here in our CCD building at 11 East Main St or home study program for grades 1-8 only, where parent or guardian instructs the student in completing the grade level curriculum. For the 2022-2023 year, catechist led class will held in two 8 week sessions, with Session 1 running October to December and Session 2 running late January to April. **Students would attend both sessions.** Family programing and grade level retreats will be held during the winter hiatus weeks.

The registration fees for the 2022-2023 school year are listed on the attached registration form. The per child fee is the same, regardless of the instructional format chosen. Financial assistance is available for those families who require it. Personal contact with the Pastor is mandated.

We have also included, for your information, some information below, which explains some expectations of the Parish's religious education program.

**Attendance - Grades 1-8**

Education in our Catholic faith is a cumulative process requiring regular class attendance. Missed work should be made up at home.

Students in Grades 4-8 should complete the pre class online work before their scheduled class. This material is part of the required grade curriculum and is not optional.

Home taught students must submit all written unit end exams before being allowed to register for the next grade.

**First Reconciliation/First Communion Sacramental Preparation Students**

In addition to attending CCD doctrinal classes, students in Grade 2 prepare for and receive their First Confession and First Holy Communion. Grade 2 students are prepared for these sacraments in separate sessions. A calendar of these sessions will be provided to First Communion families separately.

**Confirmation Sacramental Preparation Students**

The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in the spring, according to the Bishop's schedule. Students are eligible to participate in the Rite of Confirmation after they have met all of the preparation requirements for Confirmation, including completion of all classes and attending a day retreat in Grade 10.

**Service to Others**

As Catholics, we are called to imitate Christ's example of selfless giving and loving service to others. Students are expected to complete their grade level service requirements. Additional information about the service requirements is included on the back. Any services performed during the summer months should be entered on the 2022-2023 service log.

We are looking forward to another year in the ongoing faith formation of your children. Please feel free to contact either one of us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Yours in Christ,  
Andrew Tomaski and Amy Donahue

# Sacred Heart Parish Service Program

As Catholic Christians, we are called by our baptism to follow Jesus' New Commandment – “Love one another as I have loved you.” We express this love of neighbor and give glory to God through our service to others.

We are living very different lives than we were prior to the COVID pandemic. We understand that for most (if not all) of us, the novel Coronavirus felt and still feels uncertain and scary. **The best antidote we know to combat helplessness is to *do good*.**

The service program has been extremely successful in fostering service in our Parish's children over the past decade. Our students and their families gave approximately 3,000 hours of service to those in need in our community last year!

This outpouring of love of neighbor is needed now more than ever. Our Catholic Christian faith calls on us to ask “How can I help?”

Below are included answers to some of the more common questions about the service program, as modified for the 2022-2023 school year. As always, feel free to contact us directly with any questions you may have about the program.

## **What are the minimum service requirements by grade?**

Gr. 1-2: 2 hours

Gr. 5-6: 6 hours

Gr. 3-4: 4 hours

Gr. 7-8: 10 hours

High School: 15 hours. At least 5 of the 15 total required hours are to be performed in service to our Parish. Students may complete all service hours in service to the parish.

**Each student must complete the minimum required hours each year the student is in the program. All required service hours for grades 1-8 must be completed in order to register for the High School Confirmation Program.**

## **What constitutes service?**

Service is time and effort given to others in need, for which no money or gift is received. Time spent volunteering for any nonprofit organization or event sponsored by a nonprofit (walkathons, marathons to raise money for charity, etc.) would be considered service. Service performed for other youth organizations, such as scout troops, sports teams, and student councils will qualify as well.

*With the lingering effects of COVID still among us, we understand that it may be difficult to find volunteer opportunities. For the 2022-2023 year, students may record “good deeds”, such helping at risk neighbors and family members and time spent gathering or shopping for items to be donated (clothes, books, school supplies, etc.) for up to 50% of their required hours.*

## **What is NOT considered service?**

Helping a family owned or run business, marching in a parade or working on a political campaign are not allowed as service time.

## **Parish Service Events and Opportunities**

We are hoping to schedule group service events and advertise for class help from our teens in the fall. We will continue to communicate at home service opportunities for all students.

## **How do we record our service hours?**

Students are asked to document their service efforts on the attached service log and return it to their CCD teacher or directly to the CCD office. Service logs must be signed by the person in charge of the event or organization for which the student has volunteered. *For the 2022-2023 year, parents may sign their child(ren)'s service logs for activities performed at home .*

## **When are service logs due?**

**High School service logs are due no later than March 1st. Grades 1-8 are due by April 30th.** Students may begin accumulating service for the next school year once their current year's obligation is fulfilled. **Confirmation service hours need to be earned during the Confirmation preparation program years.**